

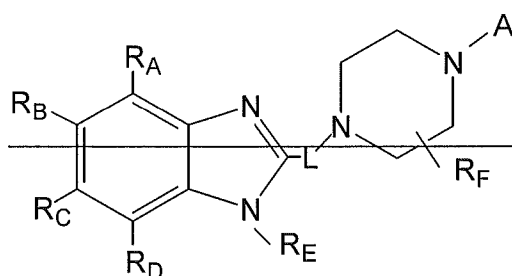
Amendments to the claims marked-up version

Claims 90-102 are pending. Claims 90, 91, 94, 95, 98 and 99 are rejected. Claims 90, 91, 94, 95, 98 and 99 are currently cancelled. Claims 92, 96, 100, and 101 are currently amended.

The following list of claims will replace prior versions and listing of claims in the application:

1. – 89. Cancelled

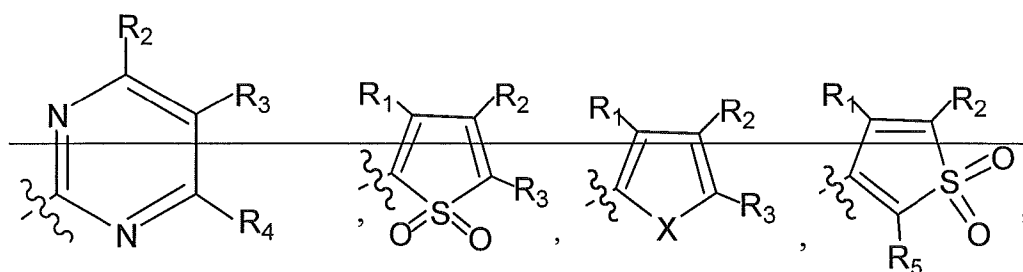
90. (Cancelled) A compound of formula (II)



(II)

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or amide thereof, wherein

A is selected from the group consisting of



X is selected from the group consisting of NH, O and S;

L is selected from the group consisting of CH₂, CH₂CH₂, CH₂CH₂CH₂ and CH₂CH₂CH₂CH₂;

R₁, R₂, R₃, R₄ and R₅ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkenyl, alkyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, alkynyl, alkoxy carbonyl, alkyl carbonyl, alkyl carbonyloxy, carboxy, cyano, formyl, halogen, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, ~~NZ₁Z₂~~

and (NZ_1Z_2) carbonyl wherein Z_1 and Z_2 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl and formyl;

R_A , R_B , R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkenyl, alkyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, alkynyl, alkoxy carbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, carboxy, cyano, formyl, halogen, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, NZ_1Z_2 and (NZ_1Z_2) carbonyl;

R_E is hydrogen; and

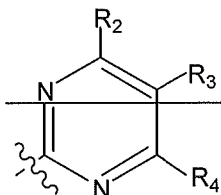
R_F is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

91. (Cancelled) The compound according to claim 90 wherein

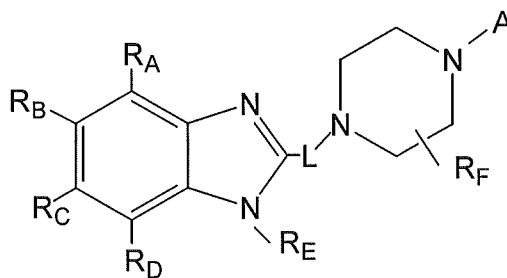
R_A , R_B , R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen;

and

A is



92. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 90 of formula (I)



(I)

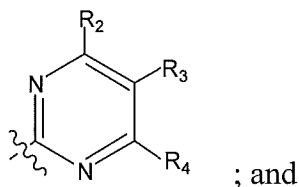
wherein

R_A , R_B , R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen;

R_F and R_E are hydrogen;

L is CH_2 ;

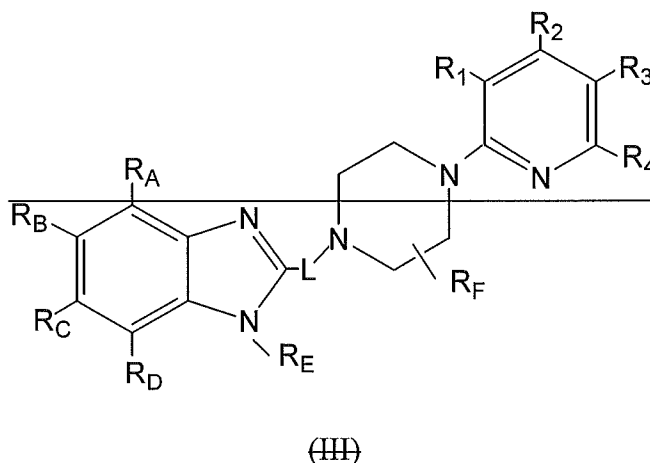
A is



R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are each hydrogen.

93. (Previously Amended) The compound according to claim 92 that is 2-[(4-pyrimidin-2-ylpiperazin-1-yl)methyl]-1H-benzimidazole.

94. (Cancelled) A compound of formula (III)



or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, ester, or amide thereof, wherein

R_1 , R_2 , R_3 and R_4 are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylsulfonylamino, alkylthio and hydroxy;

L is selected from the group consisting of CH_2 , CH_2CH_2 , $CH_2CH_2CH_2$ and $CH_2CH_2CH_2CH_2$;

R_A , R_B , R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkoxy, alkenyl, alkyl, alkylsulfinyl, alkylsulfonyl, alkylthio, alkynyl, alkoxycarbonyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylcarbonyloxy, carboxy, cyano, formyl, halogen, haloalkoxy, haloalkyl, hydroxy, hydroxyalkyl, mercapto, nitro, NZ_1Z_2 and

(NZ₁Z₂)carbonyl wherein Z₁ and Z₂ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen, alkyl, alkylcarbonyl, alkylsulfonyl and formyl;

R_E is hydrogen; and

R_F is selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkyl;

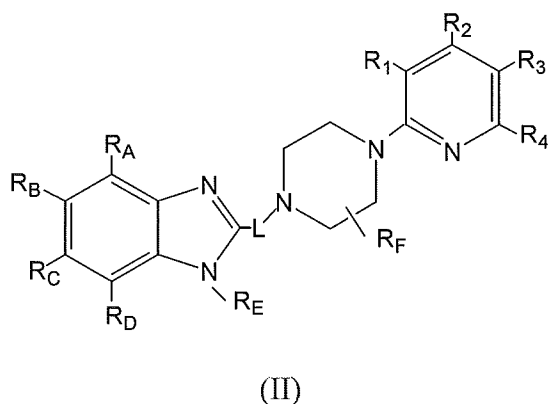
provided that when R_F is hydrogen, than at least one of R₁, R₂, R₃, or R₄ is other than hydrogen;

95. (Cancelled) ~~The compound according to claim 94 wherein~~

~~R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and hydroxy;~~

~~R_A, R_B, R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen.~~

96. (Currently Amended) ~~The A compound according to claim 94 of formula (II)~~



wherein

R₁, R₂ and R₄ are each hydrogen;

R₃ is hydroxy;

L is CH₂;

R_A, R_B, R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen;

and

R_F and R_E are is-hydrogen.

97. (Previously Amended) The compound according to claim 96 that is 6-[4-(1H-benzimidazol-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridin-3-ol.

98. (Cancelled) ~~The compound according to claim 94 wherein~~

~~R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are each hydrogen;~~

~~L is CH₂;~~

~~R_A, R_B, R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen;~~

~~and~~

~~R_F is alkyl.~~

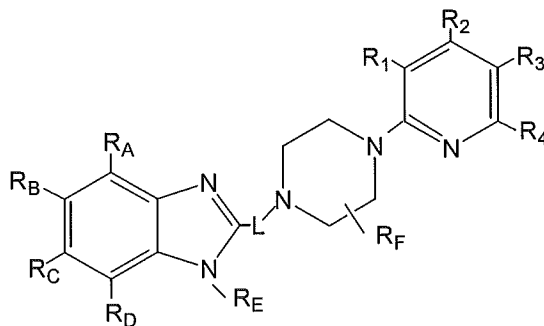
99. (Cancelled) ~~The compound according to claim 98 selected from the group consisting of~~

~~2-[(2-methyl-4-pyridin-2-yl)piperazin-1-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole;~~

~~2-[[[(2S)-2-methyl-4-pyridin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole; and~~

~~2-[[[(2R)-2-methyl-4-pyridin-2-yl]piperazin-1-yl]methyl]-1H-benzimidazole.~~

100. (Currently Amended) The-A compound according to claim 94 of formula (II)



(II)

wherein

R₁, R₂, R₃ and R₄ are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and alkylsulfonylamino;

L is CH₂;

R_F and R_E are hydrogen; and

R_A, R_B, R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen.

101. (Currently Amended) The compound according to claim 94-100 wherein

R₂, R₃ and R₄ are each hydrogen; and

R₁ is alkylsulfonylamino;

~~L is CH₂;~~

~~R_A, R_B, R_C and R_D are each independently selected from the group consisting of hydrogen and halogen;~~

~~and~~

~~R_F is hydrogen.~~

102. (Previously Amended) The compound according to claim 101 that is N-{2-[4-(1H-benzimidazol-2-ylmethyl)piperazin-1-yl]pyridin-3-yl}methanesulfonamide.

103. – 113. Cancelled